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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/141,318 08/27/98 ISOMURA H 1046.1190/J

EXAMINER

LM02/1229

STAAS & HALSEY
700 ELEVENTH STREET NW
SUITE 500
WASHINGTON DC 20001

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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ENG, G
2743

DATE MAILED:

12/29/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/141,318	Applicant(s) Isomura	
	Examiner George Eng	Group Art Unit 2743	

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Aug 27, 1998

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the applicat

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☒ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 3

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

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DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed 8/27/1998 (paper no. 3) has been considered.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: page 11, line 23, "102" should be --201-- to be corrected.

Appropriate correction is required.

3. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Objections

4. Claim objected to because of the following informalities: page 25, line 20, "7" should be --8-- in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang (US PAT. 5,757,891) in view of Murakami et al. (US PAT. 5,590,178 hereinafter Murakami).

Regarding claim 1, Wang discloses a telephone 200 with an electronic mail managing function, wherein the telephone comprising accessing means for accessing to a mail server (col. 12 lines 9-13), a mail memory for storing an electronic mail received from the mail server (col. 12 lines 14-17) and transmission means for transmitting the electronic mail store in the mail memory to one of the plurality of terminal devices. Wang differs from the claimed invention in not specifically teaching memory status means for storing each status of the electronic mail store in the mail memory so as to correspond to each of the terminal device. However, Murakami teaches an electronic mail system having a user status variable table, i.e., memory status means, for providing a history of user activities performed on the electronic mail system (figure 4 and col. 4 line 57 through col. 5 line 3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wang in having memory status means, as per teaching of Murakami, because it provides a user friendly so that it provides a history of users' activities performed on the system.

Regarding claims 2-3, Murakami discloses the mail status memory means storing whether or not the electronic mail is received at each of terminal devices and a table for storing a process to be applied to the electronic mail for each of terminals (figure 4 and col. 4 lines 57-59).

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Regarding claim 4, Murakami discloses the process to be applied to the electronic mail including to delete and to keep the electronic mail (col. 10 lines 31-35).

Regarding claim 5, Wang teaches the telephone further comprising emergency process means for determining whether a priority is necessary (col. 9 lines 7-20).

Regarding claim 6, Wang teaches an identifier memory for storing an identifier of a device to be connected so that it is permitted to access from the device of which the identifier coincides with the stored identifier (col. 7 line 64 through col. 8 line 12).

Regarding claim 7, Wang disclose a method in a mail managing apparatus 200 for transmitting and receiving mail data to and from a mail server 202 and a plurality of terminal devices as shown in figure 10 comprising a reading step of reading a mail stored in the mail server (col. 12 lines 9-13), a storing step for storing the mail in the reading step (col. 12 lines 14-17), a display step for displaying a status of the mail stored in the storing step (col. 12 lines 18-23), and a transmission step of transmitting the mail stored in the storing step to one of the terminal devices (col. 12 lines 34-39). Wang differs from the claimed invention in not specifically teaching to display a status of the mail for each of the terminal devices. However, Murakami teaches such (figure 4 and col. 4 line 57 through col. 5 line 3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wang in having memory status means, as per teaching of Murakami, because it provides a user friendly so that it provides a history of users' activities performed on the system.

Regarding claim 8, the limitations of the claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claim 7.

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Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Haddock et al. (US PAT. 5,657,378) discloses a telephone device for accessing electronic services such as information retrieval and information dissemination (abstract). Larson et al. (US PAT. 5,825,854) discloses a telephone access system for communicating with a computer through a telephone handset in order to access voice mail, electronic mail, a file manager facsimile all stored within the computer (abstract). Hiroshige (US PAT. 5,790,649) discloses an electronic mail transfer system (abstract).

8. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 305-9508 (for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Eng whose telephone number is (703) 308-9555. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday from 7 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Curtis Kuntz, can be reached on (703) 305-4708.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

GEORGE ENG

December 21, 1999

Due Nguyen
Patent Examiner
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